

FLD 89

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

- 25X1 1. The Communist regime supported sports and gymnastics and did everything to spread interest in sports and to organize sport clubs in every village in Hungary.
- 25X1 2. Sports were classified unofficially in two groups:
- 25X1 a. Army or military sports (honvédelmi sportok), such as swimming, water polo, wrestling, boxing, bicycling, rowing.
- 25X1 b. "Gentlemen's" sports (uri sportok), such as tennis, ice hockey, and field hockey.
- 25X1 3. Army sports got more support from the regime than the "gentlemen's" sports. For example, men engaged in Army sports got the so-called "calorie supplement" (kaloria térítés) of 120-260 forints per month, while those engaged in "Gentlemen's" sports did not get any supplement. The "calorie" supplement was the only direct financial aid provided for sportsmen.
- 25X1 4. Outstanding sportsmen were not actually paid, but they were given leave with pay to practice their sports, which amounted to the same as pay. Olympic champions got rewards of from 10,000 to 20,000 forints. [] a football player, (fnu) LORAND [] went to the Olympics in Finland and got a sports car as a prize.
5. All sports in Hungary were under the control of the State Gymnastics and Sports Committee (Országos Testnevelési és Sportbizottság - OTSB), which worked directly with the Council of Ministers (Miniszter Tanács). The OTSB was guided, accordingly, by the slogan of KALININ: "Sport is not an aim in itself but a means for enhancing productive work and defense of the Fatherland."

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SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-2-

6. The OTSB directed 17 county (megye) gymnastics and sports committees, to which were subordinated district (jaras) gymnastics and sports committees. These in turn directed sports organizations in villages within their territory.
7. The OTSB was directed by a chief and several deputy chiefs. It had a number of departments in charge of various sports activities, and one or more referents for every sport, according to the importance of the sport. [redacted] a Personnel Department, a department for the promotion of the organization "Ready for Work and Fight" (Munkara Harcra Kesz - MHK), a Department for Football (soccer), and a Department for Athletics. OTSB in Budapest had about 100 employees.
8. Chairman of the OTSB was Gyula HEGYI [redacted]
9. Istvan KUTAS, deputy chairman of OTSB [redacted]
10. Gusztav SEBES, second deputy chairman [redacted]
11. (Fnu) TAPOLCZAY, third deputy chairman [redacted]
12. All sports installations such as football fields, sports stadiums, etc., were under the control of the Sports Development Enterprise (Sportletesitmenyek Vallalata), which at the same time took care of all receipts and expenditures connected with sports. In 1951 the profits of the Enterprise exceeded estimated profits by 300,000 forints.
13. Individual sports clubs in villages, offices, and industrial enterprises were made up of members of professional organizations. For [redacted] the Builders' Sport Society (Epitoek Sport Egyesulete) in Budapest. This nationwide sport society represented the Building Industry Trade Union (Epitoepari Szakszervezete) and had members throughout the country.
14. In January 1953 the Sports Circle of Metro Builders (Metro Epitoek Sport Koere) was organized in Budapest, [redacted]
15. Hungarian sport clubs went abroad to participate in international competitions. [redacted] Participants had their train fare paid and were given 500 lei per day pocket money. Such groups abroad were always led by a member of the Communist Party's Democratic Youth Association (Demokraticus Ifjusagi Szovetsseg - DISZ). No member of the team was allowed to walk alone in a foreign country. All visits to town and all sight-seeing were done in groups. Before leaving for a foreign country the members of a team had to surrender all their documents, such as identification cards, police registry blanks, etc., which were kept for them in Hungary until their return.

SECRET

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-3-

16. [redacted] Berlin in March 1953, there were 16 members of the team plus the umpire and leader. The leader [redacted] held [redacted] collective passport, waited for the last day [redacted] in Berlin to give [redacted] pocket money, which amounted to nine marks per day per person, or 90 marks for the 10 days that the team stayed in Berlin. The leader of our team to Berlin was Lt. Col. Imre NEMET, a member of the AVH. He was chief of the Personnel Department in the OTSB.

[redacted]

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